

No Flesh Glory in His Presence

1 Cor 1:26-29

1 Corinthians 1:25

Take all knowledge together and all strength—still come short least of God's wisdom and strength.

Way of cross through humility, repentance, grace, repentance, inadequacies, and reliance upon Him.

1 Corinthians 1:26

When received Christ, due to fact that God supernaturally called you to Himself. Process began months if not years before repentance and belief in Christ.

Jn.16: 7-12 2 Cor 4:4 Acts 16:14-15

Ye see your calling: Called: saved, elected, born-again, baptized, regenerated.

... wise men after the flesh: skilled ones, experts (law, theology, etc)

Not many big names...heavy hitters...

Mighty: powerful, strong, wealthy, influential

Noble: high ranking

Mac: *God is not looking for Phi Beta Kappa's to save and to do His work. Nor is He looking for millionaires or famous athletes or entertainers or statesmen. His salvation is open to them just as surely as to others, but only on the same basis of faith. The very things that put them ahead in the world may actually put them behind with God. It is the feeling of inadequacy that makes people aware that they have need, and often draws them to the gospel.*

Matthew 18:3; 11:25

...wise men after the flesh: ... intellectual prowess...men of learning...sages in the community...intelligencia of society...high IQ's.

Not many mighty: wield authority in society. *hoity toits*, influential people, persons of high rank and office.

Not many noble: well-born, aristocracy by birth.

Majority of people in church at Corinth -- humble/plain mentality

Few exceptions:

Crispus & Sosthenes—rulers of synagogue

Gaius-wealthy, hospitable

Erastus-chancellor of city of Corinth.

In every time period of history and economy and spiritual climate where God's power has been evident there has been an obvious climate of humility, weakness, and insufficiency,.

Reason: God's strength is always made perfect in weakness.

Marten: *the gospel has not been most widely accepted among those whom the world lauds and honors. Not many Plato's or Aristotle's have accepted Christ, not many Caesars or Nero's, not even many Saul's of Tarsus.*

1 Corinthians 1:27

Foolish things: individuals who had very little learning, position, money, and power.

To confound the wise: bring to shame; make them realize how little and unimportant they are before God.

Weak things: Not a lot of inherent strength.

Apostles: Galilean fishermen, a hated local tax-collector.

Mighty; high ranking ... big shots.

Members of church of Corinth: Slaves, poor men, artisans and laborers.

Author unknown: *Thus God selects His army for the future and it reveals similarity with the cross, a picture of weakness and folly. But it will overcome the world.*

1 Corinthians 1:28

Base: low class; ignoble or common; dishonorable

Despised: objects of contempt.

Things which are not: Worst insult of all...phrase used of slaves.

To bring to not the things that are: bring down to nothing things which world thinks are high and mighty.

Mac: *God reveals the greatness of His power by demonstrating that it is the world's nobodies that are His somebodies.*

Celsus. A.D. 178: *Let no cultured person draw near, none wise and none sensible, for all that kind of thing we count evil: but if any man is ignorant, if any man is wanting in sense and culture, if anybody is a fool, let him come boldly (to become a Christian)...We see them in their own houses, wool dresses, cobblers, the worst, the vulgarest, the most uneducated persons... They are like a swarm of bats or ants creeping out of their nest, or frogs holding a symposium around a swamp, or worms convening in mud.*

Why God chosen foolish things...

Main purpose in it all?

1 Corinthians 1:29

Jeremiah 9:24

Glory in His presence: boast or vaunt in His presence. Get inflated view of own self-worth.

No peacocks in Christian life

Charles Colson, Loving God *The real legacy of my life was my biggest failure--that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation--being sent to prison--was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one experience in which I could not glory for His glory.*

Wiersbe *Salvation must be wholly of grace; otherwise, God cannot get the glory.*

Everything we say and do ought to bring glory and honor to God...ought to make God look good. 1 Corinthians 10:31

1 Corinthians 1:29

John the Baptist. Matthew 11:11 Jn 3:30

Main purpose of lives--live in such a way that God get glory.

Psalm 86:9, 12 Psalm 8:1 Psalm 19:1 Psalm 29:1-2 Psalm 72:19 Psalm 105:3

le. 24 elders in heaven: Revelation 4:11

Servanthood.

Humility

J. Edgar Hoover *Through many years of active public life and through observing many kinds of people, I have found that the strongest, most competent and reliable man is the one who is first to admit his own inadequacy. Contradictory though it may seem, he is strong because he is humble, and always remembers that man is a creation of God. To trust in the Lord with all the heart is a mark of strength. It is the only path to true fulfillment.*

2 Corinthians 3:5

It is possible to be too big for God to use by never too small for God to use.

F.B.Meyer: *I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above another and the taller we grow, the easier we can reach them. Now I find, that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath another and the lower we stop, the more we get.*

1 Corinthians 1:31

Jonathan Edwards, Leadership, Vol. 6, no. 1. *Resolved: that all men should live for the glory of God. Resolved second: That whether others do or not, I will.*

D.L.Moody: *Dr. Bonar once said that he could tell when a Christian was growing. In proportion to his growth in grace he would elevate his Master, talk less of what he himself was doing, and become smaller and smaller in his own esteem, until, like the morning star, he faded away before the rising sun.*

So What?

1. God's ways are not always man's

How be great: Man says, Get your name out...make lots of money...have
Titus 3:5 Ephesians 2:8-10

2. God will save any one

3. Our consuming desire ought to be to make God look good.

A. W. Tozer, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 3. *God is looking for men in whose hands his glory is safe.*